

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /045 W

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P 161011Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 493

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 6149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USTSJC, TS

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 244362 (B) TUNIS 6079

FOR PARIS, MOSCOW: PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY ROBINSON

1. HAVE REVIEWED ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN VIEW CHANGED
ARRIVAL (REFTEL A).

2. PROPOSED STATEMENT FOLLOWS: IN THE PAST SEVERAL
WEEKS I HAVE BEEN HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS
UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION FOR THIS
FIRST WORKING MEETING OF THE FULL U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT
COMMISSION. IN THAT TIME, I HAVE SEEN AND READ A GREAT
DEAL ABOUT THE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE
TUNISIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT. I AM PLEASED,
FINALLY, TO HAVE THE OCCASION TO VISIT TUNISIA AND SEE
SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS FIRSTHAND.

AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION WAS
INAUGURATED IN WASHINGTON IN MAY OF THIS YEAR DURING THE
VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA. THE JOINT COMMISSION IS
YET ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN THE EVOLUTION OF TRADITIONALLY
STRONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
MEETINGS BEGAN FRIDAY AND WILL CONTINUE THROUGH TOMORROW
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WHICH WILL TOUCH ON VIRTUALLY ALL ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS,

WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. TUNISIA, AS A RESULT OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, IS IN A POSITION TO BENEFIT EVEN MORE THAN EVER FROM THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE THROUGH EXPANDED INTERNATIONAL TRADE, WITH THE U.S. AS WELL AS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA CALLED ATTENTION TO THIS POINT EARLIER THIS YEAR IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHEN HE STATED THAT EVERY COUNTRY MUST ATTAIN THE ABILITY TO PROVIDE FOR AT LEAST PART OF ITS TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS. TRADE AND INVESTMENT CAN GREATLY ASSIST THIS TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, WHICH WILL PLAY AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUSTAINED ECONOMIC EXPANSION. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THESE MEETINGS WILL SERVE TO ADVANCE SIGNIFICANTLY THIS OBJECTIVE.

DIALOGUE AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THIS JOINT COMMISSION IS CRUCIAL TO THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION TO TODAY'S VITAL INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. I HAVE JUST PARTICIPATED IN THE PARIS PREPARATORY MEETINGS FOR THE CONFERENCE BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL AND DEVELOPING NATIONS, AND WILL LOOK FORWARD TO REVIEWING THE RESULTS OF THESE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. THIS BRIEF VISIT WILL GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW MANY OLD ACQUAINTANCES AND TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. I AM PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF THE U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE WILL FURTHER SERVE TO STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONS ENJOYED BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. PLEASE ADVISE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDED REMARKS BE CABLED FOR ADDITION TO FRENCH AND ARABIC TRANSLATIONS TO BE FURNISHED PRESS IMMEDIATELY AFTER STATEMENT.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS06149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750358-1156
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751049/aaaabrff.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 244362, 75 TUNIS 6079
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT
TAGS: OTRA, EGEN, TS, USTSJC, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)
To: STATE MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006